



SECURE & PREPARED

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Important Information

2008 Flood Resource Center
www.flood2008.iowa.gov

When disaster strikes, don't be afraid...Be Ready!
www.bereadyiowa.org

Special Teams

Hazmat Teams Make Iowa Safer and More Prepared

Do you know what to do in the event of a major biological attack?

Iowa Code provides that the Iowa homeland security administrator or the governor may deploy a sanctioned homeland security response team upon a valid request from a local incident commander, through the county emergency management coordinator.

In 2006, Iowa's Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) hazmat (hazardous materials) team was established to enhance the capabilities of existing fire department hazmat teams to provide statewide coverage for on-site testing and identifying, assessment, and support for render-safe operations involving increasingly sophisticated improvised explosive devices and those that may contain chemical, biological, radioactive, nuclear or explosive (CBRNE) materials. The team is funded through Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) dollars.

Other state special teams that can be activated in case of emergency are: incident management teams, bomb squad task force, WMD special weapons and tactics task force (SWAT), veterinary response team, disaster medical assistance teams and urban search and rescue teams.

Fire department hazmat teams from seven Iowa communities make up



Hazmat team members receive training from the National Guard on Jan. 8.

the state WMD hazmat team: Cedar Rapids, Council Bluffs, Davenport, Des Moines, Dubuque, Sioux City and Waterloo. These departments were chosen based on their existing hazmat capabilities.

Some objectives of the WMD hazmat team include:

- Conducting rescue operations to remove affected victims from the hazardous environment
- Conducting geographical survey searches of suspected sources or contamination spreads

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News shorts...

RFP Update

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD), in cooperation with the Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture, recently solicited proposals for two contracts. The closing date for receipt of bid proposals and amendments was Dec. 22, 2008. Both contracts will begin Jan. 30, 2009.

The first (RFP# 583-2009-014) is a 12-month contract covering the evaluation of state animal health emergency plans for stop movement, planning template development and generic tabletop exercise. The second contract (RFP# 583-2009-015) is for 14 months and involves the development, facilitation and evaluation of a stop livestock movement functional exercise.

Four companies responded with bids for each RFP. SES Inc. of Kansas City, MO, was identified as the winning bidder for both projects.

Citizen Corps 2009

The grant process for the 2009 Citizen Corps is underway. HSEMD knows that Iowa will be allocated \$194,673 for Citizen Corps programs for 2009. Although there is no requirement for pass through, HSEMD plans to continue the practice of passing through 75 percent of the grant to the local level.



If your county is interested in receiving money and being a part of Citizen Corps for 2009, or if you have any questions or concerns, please contact **Blake DeRouchey** at **515.323.4232** or blake.derouchey@iowa.gov. Please indicate your interest in participating in 2009 by **Feb. 1**.

Web Site Update

Just in case you've misplaced your copy, the minutes for all past First Responder Advisory Committee (FRAC) meetings (2003 to present) are now on our Web site. Click the "Meetings" link on the right side of the home page, and then click the link to the minutes on the right side of the Meetings page.



WMD Summit

A WMD State Response Task Force Summit will be held Tuesday, Feb. 10 from 10 a.m.– 4 p.m. at the Iowa National Guard Freedom Center at Camp Dodge. Representatives of WMD hazmat teams, state WMD tactical teams, WMD EOD teams, emergency management agencies and interested supporting agencies are invited to attend. Contact **Lt. Col. Timothy Glynn** at **515.201.8998** or tim.glynn@us.army.mil if you have any questions.

State Homeland Security & Emergency Management Strategy

The strategic planning committee is busy working to update the state's homeland security and emergency management strategy. The next planning meeting is Jan. 23. A draft is nearly completed and once finished will be released for comment to all stakeholders. The document will be posted on the Web site, emailed to all county coordinators, the FRAC, Executive Group, and all other homeland security points of contact. You will also find an announcement in *Secure and Prepared*. If you have any questions, please contact **Kyle Karsjen** at kyle.karsjen@iowa.gov or **515.725.3237**.

WebEOC v7.0

Please update your WebEOC link! The new link is: <https://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/eoc7.0>

Special Teams

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- Establishing isolation perimeters
- Mitigating the effects of WMD/ CBRNE agents
- Decontaminating on-site victims, responders and equipment
- Coordinating off-site decontamination with relevant agencies
- Notifying environmental, public health and law enforcement agencies having jurisdiction for the incident to begin implementation of their standard evidence collection and investigation procedures

Earlier this month, Iowa's WMD hazmat response and decontamination team members attended a free, specialized two-day training in Des Moines, conducted by the Iowa Army National Guard's 71st Civil Support Team. The training was an opportunity for the teams to test their ability to work collectively, both as a team and as individuals. Each city was invited to send four people from their department to participate.

The city teams were split up and assigned to work groups during the training, where they performed 14 separate tasks at different "stations." Once a team completed the activity required at each station, they rotated to the next station until the activities at all stations were completed by each work group. The teams used only the equipment that every department owns.

WMD hazmat training is an ongoing process. The training is repeated and enhanced from year to year, to account for turnover in the member fire

departments and changes in equipment and technology.

For questions about activating a response team, please contact HSEMD 24 hours a day, seven days a week: **515.725.3231. Ω**



WMD hazmat training on Jan. 8. Clockwise from top: 1) A member of the Des Moines Fire Department instructs one group about mass decontamination; 2) A team member helps decontaminate another after performing a rescue; 3) Two firefighters smile as they take off their hazmat suits; 4) A team member takes samples of an unknown substance.

Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Division

A division of the Iowa Department of Public Defense

Administrator
David L. Miller

7105 N.W. 70th Avenue
Camp Dodge, Bldg. W-4
Johnston, IA 50131

Phone: 515.725.3231
Fax: 515.725.3260
Web site:

www.iowahomelandsecurity.org

Secure & Prepared is published by the Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Division for those involved in the homeland security system in the state of Iowa.

For more information contact
Stefanie Bond, 515.725.3271 or
stefanie.bond@iowa.gov.

News Team

Stefanie Bond
Beth Gathercole
David Johnston
Kyle Karsjen
Lucinda Robertson
Kathy Stodola
Bret Voorhees
Lynda Wessel

HSEMD Mission

Lead, coordinate, and support homeland security and emergency management functions in order to establish sustainable communities and ensure economic opportunities for Iowa and its citizens.

We're on the Web!

www.iowahomelandsecurity.org

Latest Personnel Notes from HSEMD

Homeland Security Bureau

Alan Horn joined the Homeland Security Bureau as homeland security officer on Dec. 19, 2008. Alan previously worked at the American Red Cross as the director of preparedness and response for the Midwest.

Alan's duties include heading up the Threat Information & Protection Program (TIPP), reporting threat information to HSEMD management and points of contact within Iowa, managing the HSEMD security clearance program, taking care of the HSEMD secure room and developing information and operations security (OPSEC) protocols. Ω



Update on 2008 Disaster Funding

More than **\$969** million in FEMA disaster assistance has been approved for homeowners, renters, businesses, and governments and non-profit entities affected by Iowa's 2008 spring flooding and tornadoes.

Approximately **\$531.5** million has been approved for the **Public Assistance Program**. This program reimburses government-related eligible expenses for emergency response measures, debris removal and repair or restoration of disaster-damaged public infrastructure. The current estimate for the number of projects that will be covered by this program is 9,500.

Additional disaster funds approved include:

\$119.8 million for Housing Assistance, which provides for rental assistance and grants to make an owner-occupied structure livable.

\$15.9 million for Other Needs Assistance, which provides grants for disaster-related funeral, dental and medical expenses.

\$257.9 million for Small Business Administration Loans, \$158.8 million for homeowners, \$99.1 million for businesses.

For information on additional disaster assistance programs, visit the Rebuild Iowa Web site at www.rio.iowa.org. Ω